

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

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THE WORLD WIDE SEARCH GOES ON

Long before Kimport launched its business of supplying authentic foreign dolls to American collectors, dollmakers were sought in all quarters of the globe, and nation by nation, sources were built up.

The second World War broke many treasured contacts. Some patriots undoubtedly lost their lives, others were barred by the Iron Curtain. War time restrictions wiped much importing out for the duration. That's when Kimport nurtured the American doll-making art and found its possibilities so surprisingly good.

Now we are expanding into the foreign field again. For the last three years, Kim McKim, who came into the business out of service, has devoted his time and main interests to dolls from abroad, thus uncovering many valuable sources. He is constantly writing commercial attaches in strange, far-away places; is encouraging foreign missions and persuading schools to make dolls in which they can have national pride and at the same time furnish our collectors with truly authentic figures in costume.

Among our late arrival announcements in past Doll Talks, some of these best "finds" have been de-

scribed and now here are more of the very latest.

Straight out of a land, now the trouble spot of the world, came this Arab pair from Trans-Jordan. Little changed in costume or char-

acter since Bible times when they lived in the land of Moab and Gilead, they cling to their arid acres just across the Jordan River from Israel, hence their name and their war danger.

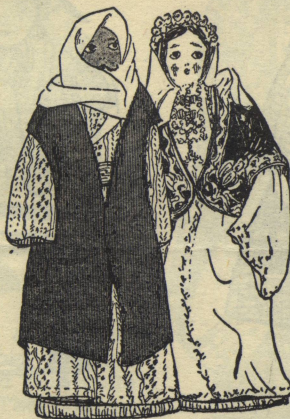
These colorful little 7½ inch figures mounted on sturdy wood bases were imported from Bethlehem. He is bundled against desert heat and sand with long striped cloak and

white burnoose, and she has the allure of the East with her metal spangled head-dress and brightly embroidered jacket. Even their cloth painted faces look Arab and have character.

No. 855 Abdullah, the Sheik — \$3.95

No. 855A Hagar, Desert Beauty— \$3.95.

The great philanthropic Care organization brought self help to many a Greek household by offering to market their handcraft. Among other lovely items they brought some dolls to the United



States and as so many other hopeful do-gooders have done, they ultimately came to us to help place them. Thus Kimport got some choice examples of Greek needlework and pass them along to you at a saving.



This shepherd girl is from the Sarakatsanis province. She is a sturdy 10 inch peasant lass with weighted feet that enable her to stand alone; is colorfully dressed in graceful garments that are enriched by a vast detail of handwork; some of the material is hand-loomed. Face is carefully modeled and painted; not a rival of Helen of Troy but a native of the same land.

No. 853S — "Ismene," Greek Girl,
\$9.95

Dolls made in Norway do not come too cheap. Their makers do not compromise with shoddy ma-

terials and their artists and craftsmen make the best wages of Europe and their products show it. This is to say you'll be proud to own a pair of these precious little Lapps made in Norway whence part of the tribe truly comes. Of



course there are also Finnish, Russian and Swedish Lapps, but what a mess the Russian Lapp dolls would likely be! Lars' distinctive "four winds" cap and Hilja's "football" helmet form the main difference in their picturesque traditional costumes. Now felt, blue and red, arm them against the Arctic cold, and their carefully modeled faces smile cheerfully come storm or blizzard. They will be trekking far north with their reindeer herds soon — better capture a pair while you may.

No. 965X — Lars 7½" — \$7.50

No. 965AX — Hilja 7½" — \$7.50



Little by little some captive nations have loosened their Russian yokes and now Poland can again send out a few dolls. They are not as good as the marvelous mountain figures that we used to offer, but their prices are very low and these first imports will symbolize a tragic nation until better days and better dolls come along. Marysia, with her glistening braids and wide Slavic eyes has a beauty that puts her in the "village belle" class. Touches of color are added by her red shoes and blue scarf. Puffed sleeves, neat apron and print skirt complete her attire.

No. 908A—Marysia—8½"—just \$2.00.

When you hear of Moslems you may think of a "Turk with a sizeable harem." But not necessarily

so. The Moros of the Philippines are Mohammedan and in costume and race as well as religion, they are true to their Islamic ancestry.



Some months ago we described the beautiful Moro girl as pictured here. There are pearls through her sleek raven coiffure and pearls at her throat, and a pearl pinning the graceful gilt-shot sari which loops long from one shoulder. Her lovely face is delicately molded and painted with wide brown eyes that seem to swallow you up. Now her stalwart mate, Feisel, has arrived and you'll want him to complete your pair or the both of them if

you did not order her. His gay costume complements hers in materials and color, but he has a dashing red fez and a wicked kris in his wide sash. Each stands 10 inches on a creamy hardwood base. No. 452—Maimuna, Moro lady—\$4.50 No. 452A—Feisel, Moro man — \$4.50

Of course you've admired Gretchen and Gretel and their Spreewald cousin, but our latest immigrants from the old country are a little larger pair right from the Black

Forest of Germany. The big flat hat and red pom-poms identify Elsa at once, and her costume with bright red apron and gaily embroidered bodice overlay the black most excitingly. She has long golden braids almost to rival Swiss Heidi's across the border and her cloth face is prettily modeled and painted.



The boy, Eric, is almost as cherubic in face and his plain black clothes piped in red, and the metal buttons down his coat and the sturdy construction of both dolls make them a satisfying pair to own. You'd hardly think that little 5 inch figures could be so unmistakably German, but their makers have excelled in the doll creative art for a century past.

No. 624 — Eric, Black Forest Boy — \$1.75.

No. 624A — Elsa, Maid with pom-poms — \$2.25.

HER SISTER'S KEEPER

There is something positively hypnotic about those stories of

how misers become so warped and furtive that they'll starve themselves to hoard another dollar. "Brother's Keeper" is a recent best seller which you may have read. Ruth E. Smith's story is in capsule form, has a happier finale and of course a doll connection to make Doll Talk.

"Last year, back in Ohio, Mother found two maiden aunts starving in their run-down home behind a tavern. She started going there every week to clean up debris as well as bring the old ladies hot food and groceries. Imagine her surprise, when she discovered envelopes of old bills, child's socks filled with gold money, etc., under the debris, last and forgotten through the years! She also located bank accounts, so now the old ladies (in their nineties) have a furnace, repaired and painted home and a neighbor hired to bring them hot meals.

"There was a wine cellar under the old tavern that had been used as part of the underground during the Civil War. It was here that she found the three old dolls which are such a prize for my collection, not so much because they are rare, (one china and one bisque headed, one four inch all bisque) but they do have a story. Only dolls could survive the horrors of years in a dark cellar, where rats gnawed their garments and mould matted their hair!"

But Ruth assures us that now they are renovated, restored, and enjoying their era of retirement in the Haven of California. How those Californians do get in a plug!

POSTPONED

One feature article isn't getting published yet, the story of Virginia Cole Olsen's Museum Collection. We had it all written up with the Biscayne Boulevard address, submitted it to Virginia, and I think she enjoyed it all but—seems that the Olsens and Mrs. Cole are deciding on a ninety-nine year lease for their acreage and business, which sounds slightly fabulous for generations to come. As of now though, this leaves their most wonderful collection of dolls, not receiving.

We'll write it all over again before southern travel gets set for next year as the Cole-Olsen collection is truly a privilege to see.

Just after the Boston Convention, Virginia wrote, in part:—"We are still in the midst of getting dolls back into their cases. Were marooned in Boston three days because of hurricane Diane. Because we know Mrs. McKim is really interested, I'll report that we made the trip up loaded with dolls and came back with the dolls loaded with ribbons! Yes, ours got twenty-one firsts out of the fifty-three ribbons total."

NOTES WORTH NOTING

Certainly, we all use quantities of notepaper, but when the set (12 this time) is a series of dated old fashion plates, you'll be wanting to keep one whole dozen for reference. Four fold size $4\frac{1}{4}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, not in color but with the feeling of old steel engravings, with matching envelopes of course. We'll let Mrs. Matheson of Long Beach

tell their story — Marie Melissa, she is. "You asked how I happened to have this stationery made. In my old books were these lovely pictures that everyone wanted, examples of the finest engravings. What better means to make them available than to have them made all the same size and to put them on stationery, available to all. You know, it's said that a picture is better than a thousand words! Beauty, information, and utility; pictures of dolls and the actual dates, children and their styles, dolls clothing, women's styles. Other toys, doll buggies, hats, shoes, all correctly dated. These pictures definitely show that children were allowed to play with these dolls, contrary to common belief. It was hard to pick and choose. Some were musts; others picked for dates; some (1822) are waiting to be done, if desired. So that is why I am anxious to see how my notepaper series will serve their three-fold purpose."

Since the accurate datings on all range from 1869 to 1882, these delightful reprints condense dozens of smartest conceits into a treasury of doll costuming data. You may even want to keep one set for reference. Set of 12, fourfold, with envelopes. No. 37M, \$1.25. ✓

Thanks to your discriminations, those Kendall sets of notepaper have become almost as standard an item as doll stands! They are put up in a set of ten, $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ fourfold, with envelopes, beautifully sketched groupings of antique dolls, No. 37, \$1.00.

SHIRLEY NO. 1

Mrs. Marjorie Brandt has been getting Kimport Dolls ever since she was a moppet, back in the thirties. True, her tastes may have changed since her mother, Mrs. John Tyson, started the collection which must be truly an imposing one—there have been about 125 good ones from us to them. But here is Marjorie's report on one collector item that did not come from Kimport:

"I've been meaning to tell you about my Shirley Temple doll! It seems unbelievable that they have become minor collector items. My goodness, I played with one as a child and I'm only 29. But there is one interesting fact connected with mine. The year they first came out (the early 30's—can't remember the exact year) my parents took me on my first trip to New York City. One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to Macy's Toy Department to pick out a present—a doll, of course. I browsed and chose and changed my mind again, etc. etc.! Finally I had just about decided on one—can't even remember what now—when a stockroom clerk came dashing up with a doll trunk, bulging with clothes and containing a Shirley Temple doll. This first shipment of Shirley Temple dolls had just that day been received and the stockroom clerk had just brought one up to the toy department to show the sales girls before the rest were unpacked. Needless to say, I wanted that one! And I got it, trunk, clothes and doll. So my Shirley Temple doll was the first one of-

fered for sale by one of the nation's largest department stores. The trunk and clothes, all but one outfit, were burned in a fire at my home in 1944, but the doll and one original outfit, which I had elsewhere at the time of the fire, are now a part of my collection.

SURE, IT'S SACRIFICE

This is to introduce one of you many wonderful women, to the rest of us. Certainly, we do get acquainted, and an understanding insight into the spirit of Marjorie Fitzgerald of Illinois, who is just completing two happy years on our Doll of the Month. Her selections have been small to medium size antiques.

"Just home from a six weeks vacation and received your very pleasant letter. It is incredible that another year has gone by, with my Doll of the Month Plan! In spite of the delightful association I have had with Kimport, I feel I must discontinue the pleasure of D.O.M. for a while because there is a Home for Children in which I have become responsibly interested. I do wish to support them more fully, so it seems logical that my doll funds will go toward accomplishing this goal. I am going to miss those exciting boxes from Kimport each month. Your selections have shown such thought and consideration that my collection has grown considerably in stature. That last Lucky 13th Bisque beauty is a thrill indeed. My thanks to all of you at Kimport. You will continue to hear from me, from time to time."

THE PIEROTTI WAX DOLL

1793—1935

by

Luella Hart

The wax dolls of the family of Pierotti are "hard to find" treasures. While in London in 1953 I saw two of these dolls which had come into Hamley's Toy Store for repair. The air raids over London caused cracks that the owners wanted mended.

The history of the Pierotti doll started when Domenico Pierotti from Italy landed in England in 1780. He brought with him the Italian wax doll making knowledge. In 1793 he began making his wax dolls at an address on Oxford Street. In the year 1853 his son H. Pierotti was listed in both the Watkins Commercial and General Directories as a wax doll maker. The address given was 33 Great Ormond Street, Queens Square.

In 1862 the Pierotti Royal Model Wax Dolls were awarded a medal of honour at the International Exhibition.

From 1871 to 1935 the two sons of H. Pierotti continued making their dolls which they sold to Liberty and Hamleys. Then in 1935 they stopped taking dolls to the stores. No one was able to learn what happened to Charles or Ernest Pierotti. Although there seems to have been many of these dolls made, they are rare finds today. The owners do not part with them.

Miss Catherine Stewart, Hamley's oldest saleslady gave me one of the old catalogues from which the photograph was made. Dressed in long clothing and bonnet the price was then listed as 9 pounds.

ALL FOR ONE DOLLAR!

Head an energetic group of ladies into most any size project and they'll come dashing in on high! Kitchen goodies, original favors, and decorations, varied ideas all parceled out to smart committee heads, really total up to success. Of course, from the lines of these prejudiced pages, may be expected a haughty inkling that "Dolls DO Help." From there on the pitch is taken over this time by Helen Crews of Oklahoma.

"The ladies of our First Methodist Church are having between four and five hundred women here at our Valentine Doll Festival. There will be two sessions, from 10:00 to 2:00 for a brunch, and from 5:00 to 8:00 with buffet supper. At both times our guests will see and hear about the dolls. We are building a new Sanctuary and there are so many people who are happy to give \$1.00 to the church, so the party, and seeing the dolls, is a bonus."

THOSE OLD FAMILY TIES!

Mrs. H. B. Pearson, in welcoming her old Chase (rag) baby from Kimport, says—"The oldest bisque doll I have came through a Chase family from up in New England. They moved here to Virginia one hundred and eleven years ago and my doll belonged to a daughter who is now eighty years old. The mother's name was Flora Chase Morgan; daughter was called 'Little Nell', which I named my pretty old bisque. Little Nell died at the age of 12."



Thanks for loving the little ones so much. About the only ones not readily adopted were some of those 18th century chess dolls. We must not have "done right" by them in description some way, as really these peg jointed, fabulously costumed dolls, are the choicest of museum class treasures. We have the Chelsea Antiques Journal that pictured, described and dated our group.

This time we'll sort o' go "high hat" although the answer as to why we list here so few of some especially wanted favorites, is — that individual file of wants. Yes, **Madame X** might be xcessively xasperated to read here the description of an available Bru, Montanari, Queen Anne, Pedlar, or **X-X-X-X!** Hadn't she written in to be notified when that especial kind was available?

"High Hat?" Such a one is 9½ inch little puffy-cheeked boy with his daddy's topper all modeled right on in the bisque. Tan luster shoes and opened bands from **H.D.D.H.**; tag says, 'mend across shoulder back'. Dressed in the cunningest antique shirt that would also fit his parent, but with his own tweed longies showing below the shirt tail. He is precious! **No. A819, \$40.00.**

A more usual but all perfect little bonnet doll is 7½ inch Nancy in high frilled, melon shaped hood. The brim ruffle is pink with blue bows above her bangs and below

the chin. Chubby original legs and hands are white bisque like the head. Sweetly and freshly dressed, **No. A818, \$25.00.**

Several choice chinas — a high glaze, slender throated, Lady Dagmar, with band and cluster curls above the forehead, fine stippling down the temples, ears half showing, then the wide side puffs draw back into a big cluster-of-curls bun that is topped by a band or flat comb all in the black of her china hair. Really old but no chips or cracks; marking **IV** indented on shoulder front. 4¼ inch high head only, **No. A20, \$115.00.**

"Currier and Ives Little Boy" is another beautiful head only. Big and chubby, 6½ inches high, 4½ inches across shoulders with the same deep cornflower blue eyes that Lady Dagmar has; this child head is perfect, of highest quality, almost transparent china. Clustering curls which are sharply modeled, tumble in irregular ringlets well down over the forehead. In child proportions this head should make up into about a 23 inch doll Head, **No. A977, \$55.00.**

Next is a perfectly beautiful, very high luster boy or young man headed doll that came directly to Kimport from France. It has one of those rigid pink kid bodies, hand-sewn and definitely earlier than the sewing machine. The head is scant 2½ inches; height over all, 9½ inches. The painting is lovely; ears show completely; stippled hair line, with a side part; little pink lines above the eyes, etc. It has that aristocratic, very old-fashioned look, although the ankles do seem pretty thick in his queer old blue

socks and hand-made shoes. The costume, a dear little jacket that fits so perfectly and worsted long trousers. He is No. A926, at \$75.00.

We will include one more that is a rarity which but few of you have seen. All original, 17½ inches tall, perfect old legs have pink bow garters and narrow flat soled shoes; the 4 inch highbrow head is very wide out from her temples, with rope-like curls in graduated sizes. Perhaps you're interrupting here to say "I have seen that 1860 type," but here's the news, our slender necked, serene faced "Angeline" is a true blonde, and that is really rare in one so styled, so old and large in size. No chips or cracks, but a few pinpoint blemishes on the head. Pinkish tint arms have perfect little outstanding thumbs but some chipped fingertips on the inside fold. Delightful old costume. No. A994, \$95.00.

Those gorgeous French Bisques with rounded out, blown eyes that fairly hypnotize a person — dolls like that are admittedly "High Hat" and also just plain "high," but worth it! Here are four of Kimport's current best.

Largest and most luscious is 24 inch lady Greffier with her brown human hair done coronet, and huge blown glass eyes of deep blue that round out about half an inch! Closed mouth, pierced ears, of course; bisque head, smooth as any parian, is about 13 inches in circumference, 5 inches up from chin tip, marked 10 for size and "F.G." The fascinating old body, below composition shoulders and above knees and elbows is padded into mature

shapeliness and covered with (grimy but not seen) original stockinette; its hips can swing out, very different from the knee and elbow joints. Handsome old costume is of cream nainsook with much val insertion and a train on both the double flounced skirt and petticoat, all beautifully made with such detail as the tiny buttonholes and three hole pearl buttons. No. A52, \$200.00.

Perhaps your family goes brown eyed, and if so, 20 inch "French Marie" has just as amazing hazel orbs as Lady F. G.'s blue. She is the child type though, brown human hair in a long bob, cork topped head, only mark is like a B or 8 — all perfect and luckily clad in the darlinest original white merino frock; buttons down the front, hand scalloped in coral and lace edged with big patch pockets, velvet bows and a fashionable fancy of pleats at the back. Oh, sure, a few moth holes, but 75 years old! Jointed wood and composition body was re-painted, but needed no mending. Truly, a little aristocrat. No. A907, \$150.00.

The third French Bisque has "Paris" indented on her neck and quite a bit of red print inscriptions, not too legible. She is an 18 inch tall walking doll; again with pierced ears, closed mouth; big dark blue eyes and a lovely brown wig with bangs and long soft waves. Original school girl clothes even to leather slippers and lace-black lisle socks! Not a key wind, but steps and turns her head from side to side when guided. No. A50, \$140.00.

Sometimes, we stress personality, but this time there is a perfect and perfectly beautiful, marked Jumeau; 16 inch size, with huge brown eyes and a new, specially made human hair wig with luxuriant dark brown curls. She has a nice wooden body — I really mean wooden limbs and composition body, the fat little Jumeau kind. She has been freshly dressed by hand in a candy-pink, long waisted frock of silk mull; has pink satin slippers; cork top in the head; Jumeau marked on the body. No. A607, \$130.00.

Now, for an all wood tuck comb lady, one of the most perfect, and exactly like those Queen Victoria played with. She is 7¼ inches high, all in excellent condition, and with what well may be the original clothes, on account of the odd cotton print and very narrow old ribbon used on it; sky-blue predominating color. The face is very sweet with not a bit of re-touching; peg jointed at knees and elbows as well as hips and shoulders; tiny waisted slender body. She dates from 1815-20, according to the tag; No. A743, priced \$75.00.

One French Fashion should be introduced also in this besought category, so why not a "best"? Such indeed is a 15 inch lady whose lovely 2½ inch head swivels into deep, separate shoulders. Original gray-blond wig over cork is done lady style; gorgeous gray eyes with finely painted lashes all around; pierced ears and closed mouth. We took off her beautiful old dressmaker costume of off-white merino and silk, we found her perfectly erect; tiny waisted body was clean

as new and that her definitely Jumeau bisque arms came 'way above the dimpled elbows, almost to the white leather part of her shoulders. There is even a bonnet of the same vintage, about 1878. She is all perfect; there are a few moth holes in her gown. No. A748, \$150.00.

Adequate descriptions are imperative in this "High Hat" bracket, but they do force us into offering just one of a kind on the rest.

A little, only 14½ inch Montanari, with lots of short blonde hair inset. Beautifully shaped blue eyes and elaborately hand-made, all original clothes. The pleated skirt and over-bouse are of faded clover pink merino, narrow lace and ribbon trimmed, bronze slippers and a queer pink satin crowned hat with a huge pom-pom of ribbon that is exactly 1/16 inch wide. The brim is heavy white paper, embossed to look like stitched braid. This novelty hat material has come our way before and is perhaps later than the doll, who dates about 1870. The poured wax (not waxed over anything) is all of a delicate pink tint and perfect except for a mend at one elbow. No. A900, \$95.00.

A Music Box doll — 12½ inch sweet faced German bisque headed boy who really plays a melodious, continuing tune when his chest is pressed. Oh, that tune is on a nicely shaped but stringless violin, and his right hand moves the bow also as the music is thus produced. His mouth is quite open, like he was singing. It is in perfect working order. This little fellow's suit is very fancy — pale blue and red with lots of tarnished gilt braid,

and he has a velvet tri-corn hat. Swivel neck on some sort of built-up body; the hands are definitely wood, and the legs are encased in old striped stockings with little white shoes. Fiddler is a nice doll; dates back to about 1880. No. A69, \$68.50.

'Want one with a history — really documented with letter from its owner of Drift End in Suffolk? It explains her ownership of this doll which was a plaything of Queen Victoria's son, Leopold (Duke of Albany). The pretty composition head of this 15 inch boy doll has that early angora leather wig, also in excellent condition, but his old leather hands look like they might have been affectionately chewed! Owner mentions "uniform of a Bluejacket of 100 years ago" — drilling trousers; black, short jacket, worn, hand-made leather shoes, all original; chip straw hat with band "H.M.S. Sultan." No. A884, \$85.00.

A Judy O'Grady with all the Captain's ladies comes next, but by right of seniority — back to about 1820 — she well rates H. Hat! Big old waxed gal, 28 inches tall; 'looks a bit snooty too, but with a coil of wire at one hip that still blinks open or closes her brown porcelain eyes — who wouldn't be haughty? There is enough of her own black hair left to look ample under a silk cap; exquisitely hand-made underwear was put on by some later generation but we do believe the striped silk dress, made with a laced bodice, is original. Museum Class, wax complexion, leather arms, all in surprisingly good shape. No. A735, \$95.00.

Let's end with a Dresden, so choice that all the other high hats may doff to her! Seventeen inches over all, her deep shouldered parian head alone is 4½ inches; slenderly adult, pale blonde with necklace modeled on. Her high glazed flower swags drape over elaborate hair styling with very long back curls, from a full center rose. Eight blue-bells and ten white leaves, feather veined with rose luster, comprise this open "wreath." There are a few minor chips, two leaves have missing parts but it is surprisingly complete for such a dainty thing, around eighty years old. They just aren't available in plum perfect condition. Her body is completely perfect and original, with beautiful, long, slender, parian hands and flat soled feet. Underwear is old, but the gingham dress she had on was too pitiful. We redressed her at Kimport, in sheerest blue chiffon over ivory, with touches of pink and a bertha of hand beaded silk lace as old and delicately choice as the doll. No. A543, priced \$260.00.

OLD MEDIUM — NEW DOLL

After bragging about some of the really amazing antiques that you get via Kimport, here's coming a-way 'way down to an artistic and different wax doll that is really a buy for one who loves to concoct a costume. She isn't even antique, and she was made "Down Mexico Way," and we saw her first almost two years ago. At that very time negotiations were started but many tomorrows added to tomorrows before, much to our current astonishment, a sizeable hamper of these

pretty brunettes arrived at our door!

Strictly adult, with high-swept hair-do is 11 inches tall; Junior Miss with a swirly, side-parted bob is 9 inch size. Shoulders, head, arms and slipper legs are covered with true flesh-tone wax; hair is black wax all lined through with fine comb marks; eyes are black beads of wax set with line lids and brows. 'Round the throat of each is modeled a gold and color bead necklace—quite effective. Bodies, made like those on chinahead dolls, are covered with the gayest of gay cotton prints. Pretty dolls, and a challenge to dress either in foreign or 'most any style.

No. 372 11" Lady, only \$2.50
No. 372C 9" Girl, \$2.25

WOULD YOU BELIEVE 'T?

As another testimonial of just how "cultured" that doll connection can be, how about this for an interesting quirk? Mrs. Charles E. Abbott typed on her business looking letterhead:—

"In wastepaper packing around an article from an Antiques Shop near Des Moines, I found a partial copy of Doll Talk, which was most unusual and interesting. Enclosed is \$2.00 for my subscription and one for Miss Emily Howarth."

Both are Nebraska ladies, but here is what boosted our morale to the tree tops:—

"Neither of us is a collector nor do we have shops, but this little magazine will help us to be more intelligent and appreciative travelers."

"DOLL TALK"

Nita Loving, who deserves better, has been having a series of most unpleasant jogs of the spine. A letter just in reports "Thanks, and I did get better, but again it has slipped a cog and I'm back down flat. 'Looks like I need a complete restringing job!"

FAMILY GROUP

Mrs. Stuart W. Thomas is on the way to having a collection that will mean a lot to her, a lot of learning and a lot of fun.

"Thought you all might enjoy her ideas, confessions and aspirations, so-o—

"My collecting started three years ago with a doll that grandmother had. She is a lovely Dresden type, blonde, and never had a body. It was always on a shelf in the china cabinet. When I inherited her, I set to work making a body for her. When going through some of grandmother's things I discovered a length of gray silk taffeta, some black lace labeled "from my wedding dress." Becoming so interested in this china doll, I decided to learn more about her . . . and a collector was born! Each time we went on a trip I would watch for antique shop signs, and we would stop and I would look. I have made mistakes because I lacked knowledge and experience but I do now have sixteen china headed ones, only two with the same expression. Perhaps Kimport can find a proper, man type china head to be "grandfather"; it would be such fun to dress a couple like the old picture I have."

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.



**English Dolls' Houses Of
The 18th And 19th
Centuries**

During the last year, collector interest in antique doll houses and furnishings has reached a new peak. Witness to this was the resounding success of the recent "London Exhibition of Dolls' Houses," sponsored by Queen Elizabeth for the Children's Aid Society. This pioneer exhibit showed the vast interest that has arisen in the realm of doll miniaturia, especially now that comprehensive reference books have appeared on the subject.

This book, "English Dolls' Houses of the 18th and 19th Centuries," was written by Miss Vivien Green, President of the Dolls' Club of Great Britain, who is said to possess the world's largest private collection of old doll houses and accessories. She has done much serious research on the subject, and

this fine 224 page volume is the result of her years of experience and study. The printing and binding on this large 12 x 9 book are top quality after the fine tradition of the English Publishers, Batsford Books, and the 148 marvelous photographs and illustrations will greatly enhance its value to scholar and collector alike. A limited number are available through Kimport at \$12.50 postpaid.

From the American scene, published by Scribners, we have already described and have on hand for delivery a new book by Flora Gill Jacobs, entitled "The History of Doll Houses," written in a lively and informal style. "A History of Doll Houses" has a wealth of historical information and anecdote which makes it fascinating reading for the amateur doll house enthusiast as well as the connoisseur. The more than 150 illustrations give a tantalizing glimpse of 400 years of doll houses — some simple, some elegant, but all completely enthralling. It's a handsomely bound book of 320 pages, size 7 x 10, and besides describing and illustrating in detail the most renowned European and American doll houses of the past four centuries, it gives accounts of paper doll houses, doll shops and kitchens, and the kind of doll house which can be made at home out of odds and ends. Sent postpaid for \$7.50.

"I am so pleased with my booklet on "The Museum." Although Newark, New Jersey, is my home, I had not known of this exhibit before. Will make it a must on my next visit home."

—Annette Hyman, R. N., D.C.

IT'S GOOD — AND IT'S FREE

Through the courtesy of the Horsman Company, Doll makers since 1865, we have available several hundred copies of their terse and informative booklet entitled, "Dolls Your Grandmother Loved and Favorite Dolls of Today." It includes over 30 well chosen illustrations on its 16 pages. If requested when ordering other Kimport items, we will include a copy free or if desired separately, enclose 10c to cover handling charges.

C. A. ?

In our No. 1 letter from "prospect" Margaret Hyde of Kansas, she confesses to a gradual lowering of resistance since getting a free sample of Doll Talk. FREE, or a Tender Trap? Anyway, Mrs. Hyde writes:—

"I've been had! After resisting temptation, those miniatures assaulted my weakest spot, so here is my first order. Is there a 'collectors anonymous' for the cure of such addicts as I who let the paint peel off the house while spending money on adorable little dolls? Being an elementary librarian, my interest is also keen for book characters. Dare I ask, what have you?"

A CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPING PLUS

"We were delighted with your reporting The Newark Museum booklet. We met Miss White on our trip East and feel she had much to give doll folk."

—The R. C. Mathes, Calif.

This excellent paperback sells via Kimport at only 75c, postpaid.

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"The church tea and doll exhibit in Sheffield netted them over \$700.00 and was such a whopping success for their little town that my mother's Episcopal Church in Huntsville, Alabama, has asked to borrow the exhibit and run one for their church."

—Mrs. Martha Thompson, Mass.

"Your article on 'John' says—'strange as it seems, John is Hans in Germany'. Hans or Hannes is a contraction of Johannes—or John said quickly in the American language.

I always enjoy Doll Talk and especially approve of its size—carriable, says I!"

—Ann Ayer, N. Y.

"I have been sending dolls to my eight-year-old grandson, to use at school. He is very careful and proud, too, to take them, and has written me that he is studying Mexico and Switzerland now."

—Mrs. C. J. Wendel, Ia.

"My Doll Talk file dates from February 23, 1938. How the years fly. I started with only two dolls, and now they number five hundred!"

—Alice Hollingsworth, N. J.

All through the years we have never been disappointed in any doll, or its price, we have received from you. So, 'know we will like your choice for our Doll of the Month."

—Mrs. L. W. Dickinson, Wis.

"For the past month I've been talking on American Indian dolls in our church groups as our subject is, 'Our Work Among the Indians'. The Doll Hobby has no limit to one's happiness derived from using them to bring added meaning and interest to others."

—Cornelia Christopher, N. J.

"Thanks for acknowledging my Doll Talk subscription—a wonderful value in these days when a dollar can usually buy so little!"

—Velma Taylor, B. C.

"Was very pleased with my Mexican Moonshiner, so I now wish to order a pair of the more respectable folk, the Pineapple pickers."

—Alice J. Price, Calif.

"I gave a thirty minute T.V. program on the 'First Lady Dolls'. a short time ago. I have had requests for programs in a number of cities in this area, but I still tell people that they are most welcome to come to our doll room to see the dolls, but I do not feel up to taking them around the country—too hard on the dolls, and on me!"

—Helen Crews, Okla.

"I haven't found anything that amused me so much in a long time as that Bavarian doll, and I keep wondering if that's how my Bavarian born mother looked so many years ago. She is Susie, my mother's name, and I keep smiling back whenever I see her peering at me from under that brown felt hat brim."

—Mae Underwood, Illinois.

"I'm so happy you talked me into collecting again, for my late beloved mother enjoyed the monthly doll that arrived from Kimport, as I did."

—Anna M. Pitts, R. N., Penn.

"Guess what I am into now? Doll repairing! I am even taking a course. Just another thing that little magazine called 'Doll Talk' got me into!"

—Lillian McDonald, Va.

"I adore 'Zori'! Please increase my monthly Doll of the Month payment from \$7.50 to \$10.00, as my taste does run toward the better dolls."

—Anna L. Akers, Texas

"The dolls certainly do bring a lot of enjoyment to a lot of people, every day."

—Gladys Peterson, Utah

"Here is money to let my Gay Nineties couple out of the 'clink'. I'm sure they're needing some clothing these cool days, and thanks, for being able to acquire them piecemeal."

—Rementa Foltz, Mo.

"I loved the little green bead doll and wish that I might have more in every color."

—Vivian Raspberry, Kan.

"All of my dolls are now on stands with the exception of the baby dolls that sit. I agree, there is nothing so forlorn looking as a lovely old doll half sprawled or sitting or just plain flat on her back."

—Clara Workentine, Calif.

At Long Last—Catalog Is Coming Up

Requests constantly come in for a doll catalog. At last, we are able to meet the demand — in part. The next issue of Doll Talk will be a special 32 page catalog number showing 140 foreign dolls and giving you a survey of the world's most colorful people. All are authentic imports, and their variety will delight you.

Best of all, the dolls shown will be available for immediate delivery to you. Kim McKim has been working on this project for several months. He first located sources, then chose best numbers and ordered stock. He has carefully worked out the catalog in picture and text so that you can make a world tour of dolls and pick up some really choice ones for your collection.

There will be no extra charge for this special number of Doll Talk. In fact, we'll print some thousands extra as we would like it placed in the hands of every collector we can find. You would do a double favor to both Kimport and to any friends who are collectors by sending us their names. We'll send this catalog free to them. (Of course, no need to repeat names sent in previously). If in doubt about your own subscription date, please write us and we'll let you know.

Doll Talk Subscription Rate \$1.00 Two Years (12 issues)

RE. LUGGING LUGGAGE

It was a blithesome day for us who write Doll Talk when the following quote came in from Mrs. George W. Grossman of Ohio. You will see that she, a new subscriber, writes copy that we have been hinting at for years. One does not have to read Myrtle Grossman's palm or horoscope to know she is generous, thoughtful of her friends, appreciative of good dolls—but, sh-h, let her tell it:—"Doll Talk fascinates me, but may prove far

too tempting. I have been collecting dolls for about thirty years, specializing in small foreign dolls, but doing it the hard way—asking friends who are traveling to send them back. Have over fifty this way from twenty countries, so you can see that the idea of collecting authentic dolls right here in this country, without imposing on my friends, and being allowed my own selection, appeals to me very much!"

SEND ALL ORDERS TO:

KIMPORT DOLLS, Independence, Mo.